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made available transferred for the maintenance of vaidya-salas.

(8) At least, a fourth of the allotment now made to hospitals and dispensaries should, in future, be sanctioned for native vaidyasalas.

Mr. P. Kesava Pillai (Member, Neyyattinkara Taluk) requested that the Circular requiring the personal attendance of patients at the hospitals and dispensaries might be cancelled and that the medicines whose issue to some of the institutions was recently stopped should be continued to be supplied. He also requested that arrangements migh be made for medical officers visiting patients gratis in towns.

Mr. Ousep Kuryayippu (Member, Muvattupuzha Taluk) requested that branch hospitals might be established at up-country stations, where there were no facilities at present for medical aid. The medicine required might be found from that supplied to the different hospitals, to which the branch hospitals might be attached. The only additional expenditure that would be necessary was on account of the pay of the compounders to be appointed. He also requested that medicines might be arranged to be given on the reports of diseases as before. If the Circular could not be abolished altogether, it should at least be modified so as to make an exemption in the case of patients living at long distances from the medical institutions. The Member also prayed that the dispensary at Kothamangalom might be revived.

Dewan's reply.—The suggestions of the Members are noted.

VII.—Education.

47. Certain suggestions for the advancement of education.

Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai (Member, Ambalapuzha Taluk) observed that the present educational position of Travancore was due to the uninterrupted adherence to the policy of increasing the number of Government and aided schools. That policy of the State was all along quite in keeping with the requirements of the people and the liberal tradition of the country. He was sorry therefore that, in deviation from such a policy, Government thought fit to abolish as many as five Sirkar schools and were further contemplating the extension of the policy to other schools. The reasons were for the first time known from the address, and they were (1) that the Government schools which were closed were unnecessary and (2) that there were private

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schools thriving in their vicinity. The Member said that it was reasonable to abolish a Government school, if the locality was sparsely inhabited, but when the school was in excellent condition and the locality also required such a school, the mere ground that private schools were thriving in the neighbourhood would be no justification for the abolition. Further, before a Sirkar school was abolished, the stability of the grant-in-aid schools on which reliance was sought to be placed, should be ensured. Where there was a Sirkar school in a locality, the manager of the adjoining private institution would spare no pains to focus all his resources to beat down the former. But if the rivalry should cease by the withdrawal of the Sirkar institution, the manager would naturally slacken his activity and there was no guarantee that the school would be continued in the same state of efficiency. Many of the private schools in Travancore were, the Member added, run as mercantile concerns. If the vicinity of such aided schools was to be a criterion, the first thing to be done would be to close H. H. the Maha Raja's High School at Trivandrum. If the retention of the High School at the Capital was necessary to serve as a model, it was all the more necessary, for the reasons already mentioned, to maintain model schools in the mofussil. He therefore requested a careful consideration of the above facts in carrying out the policy adopted by Government.

He then advocated the larger employment of lady-teachers in the Primary Schools, the advancement of Vernacular education, and the extension of the system of lectures under the Government Lecture Committee to the mofussil centres. He suggested also the desirability of prohibiting the co-education of boys and girls beyond a certain age.

Mr. M. K. Narayana Pillai (Member, Trivandrum Taluk) said that the desirability of imparting free primary education was a subject brought up by him at the last session and from the reply given it was seen that the chief difficulty in the way of adopting the proposal was that, if primary education were made free, many of the aided institutions would disappear (unless they were compensated by Government for their loss on account of fees) and that thereby the volume of education would be considerably reduced. He observed that the percentages of pupils under instruction to the school-going population were very low, *viz.*, 28 in the case of boys and 15 in the case of girls. It had therefore to be remembered that the loss that was likely to be caused to the managers of a few aided schools was nothing

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when compared to the loss which a large part of the population would suffer. The Member said that, in the present case, a model ought to be taken from Switzerland or Great Britain. The fundamental duty of a Government ought to be, more than anything else, to feed the brain and thus give a character to its subjects. He also said that the depressed classes did not enjoy some of their primary rights and that steps should be taken by Government to ameliorate their condition. The Member then said that the text-books that were being prescribed required looking into. In the case of some of the Vernacular text-books, certain portions had to be omitted. Some of the books were also difficult for the classes for which they were intended. In conclusion, he requested that, in deciding such an important question as primary education, Government might be pleased to give due consideration to the above circumstances.

Mr. V. Narayana Iyer (Member, Chirayinkil Taluk) said that the subject of religious instruction in schools was admittedly one of great importance. Any successful educational system should combine intellectual, physical, moral and religious training. It was unfortunate that, in the educational systems of the present day, the moral and religious sides of education were left unnoticed. There was at present a cry all over India that the school-going students were lacking in moral principles and he quoted the opinions of some educationists to support his statement. He therefore suggested that religious teaching might be introduced in the schools. As regards the methods to be adopted, he observed that the Educational Boards would be able to advise Government in the matter. Another and easier method of procedure would be to appoint a commission of enquiry into the question of religious instruction, so that the opinion of the members of Boards throughout the country might be collected and definite proposals formulated for the consideration of Government. He requested that Government might take such steps as they might deem necessary for carrying out his suggestions.

The Dewan said that he would reserve his reply till after he had heard what the Member from the Vaikam taluk had to say on the subject of education.

The Assembly adjourned at 4-30 P. M.

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